

## COX PAPERS ATTACK HARDING'S ADDRESS

Assert Senator Is Shown Out of Harmony With Progressive Thought.

### ABUSE FILLS EDITORIAL

Article Sheds Light on Sort of Fight Democratic Nominee Will Wage.

By a Staff Correspondent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.

DARTON, Ohio, July 24.—There appeared simultaneously last night in the Dayton News and the Springfield News, newspapers owned by Gov. Cox, an editorial under the caption of "Senator Harding Accepts—What?" The subject is Senator Harding's speech at the notification ceremonies in Marion on Thursday, and the editorial is remarkable in at least two ways, one that it may shed light on the Democratic nominee's national policies and another that it shows the character of the abuse which in all probability will be heaped upon the Republican nominee during the campaign.

Strange as it may seem, Gov. Cox said late this afternoon he had not even read the editorial which has appeared in his newspapers, much less having written it or seen it in advance of its publication. These days are too busy, he explained, for him to pay much attention to the conduct of his newspapers.

Just the same the editorial attracted the utmost attention among those who are trying in advance to get a line on what Gov. Cox intends to say in his own speech of acceptance, which is to be delivered in Dayton on August 7 at the Democratic notification ceremonies.

The editorial is filled with the broadest sort of assertions, backed by scant argument, on the face of it a rabid partisan attack upon an opposition candidate. Little effort is made to meet the line of reasoning which marks the

address of the Republican leader. The tone is the same throughout the two columns of wide measure that are filled.

### "Dodge Leadership."

"He does not accept the challenge of the nation to define his position on any paramount proposition now before the people of the United States," the editorial says. "He does not accept the leadership of the party, unless we have mistaken the tenor of his speech. He does not accept the responsibility for shaping the destiny of the country toward permanent peace. On matters pertaining to which patriotic Americans are of one mind he gives half hearted endorsement. Evasive in character and wholly lacking in constructive elements, the acceptance speech must be set down as an unsuccessful effort to dodge. We hope the speech will be widely read in America. In no better way can the people of the nation be afforded an opportunity to study the candidate, and observe more clearly how completely Senator Harding is out of harmony with progressive thought in this country."

Senator Harding's assertion that he believes in a small army, but the best in the world is held up for ridicule as meaningless and the observation is made that the phrase is "typical of the entire speech."

It is asserted that the Republican nominee finds himself between two fires, undertaking "in a thoroughly unsuccessful manner" to meet what is described as two elements of the party, one headed by William H. Taft and the other by Hiram Johnson.

"It must be understood, of course, that Senator Harding is endeavoring to straddle, to please all sides in this controversy," the editorial continues. "He speaks of Americanism as though he had invented the phrase and was introducing it for the first time to the country."

"The spirit of Americanism dominated this nation long before the Marion statesman was born. And it will remain long after he has laid down the affairs of public life and retired. And so there is nothing about this appeal to the imagination and sentiments of his fellow countrymen that offers the slightest encouragement for believing that Senator Harding does not conceive that Americanism and partisan politics are one and the same thing."

### "Much Bitter Tirade."

The editorial continues: "Much of the Harding speech as had been expected, is devoted to a bitter tirade against the Democratic Administration. He assumes a spirit of peevishness because President Wilson took the Constitution of the United States and served as the executive head of the country, a duty imposed upon him in these words: 'The executive power shall be vested in a

President.' In the midst of confusing sentiments expressed by Senate leaders, it is clearly shown now that they purpose to make Harding a mere figurehead as President, if he remains in November—simply the head of a committee of the Senate and the willing official to carry out mandates that the committee agrees upon. This is a fair sample of the real interpretation of the Senate war lords upon the matter of constitutionality in America."

On the subject of the League of Nations, this opinion is advanced: "Probably no feature of the address will attract more genuine interest or excite more merited criticism than the statement: 'I promise you formal and effective peace so quickly as a Republican Congress can pass its declaration for a Republican Executive to sign.' He might just as well have said: 'You will have to trust us to devise and agree upon a plan which will decide whether or not we will join a League of Nations after we come into power. At the present time we cannot agree upon such a plan.' There is much in Senator Harding's treatment of this subject to suggest that the thing he has in mind is an entirely new treaty of peace, with no mention of a unity among nations and no programme which could add emphasis to the importance of a new treaty."

"Many years might roll around before Germany would agree to any terms the United States might demand in a separate peace pact. And in the meantime, and probably forever, America would be outside the family of nations, associated with discordant and upset Germany, revolutionary Mexico and Bolshevik Russia, inferentially belonging to a comradeship which opposes a League of Nations."

### Calls Harding Cruel.

"Senator Harding is so crude in his evasion of this subject that we wonder where he gains his authority for asking anybody else where they stand on important national and international questions. His own programme is grossly befuddled. The Senate's leadership under the direction of Henry Cabot Lodge, has made a mockery of Harding's high sounding phrase: 'We are to-day the world's reserve force in the great contest for liberty through security and maintained equality of opportunity and its righteous rewards.' A hostile Senate group has disavowed any such leadership, and Senator Harding belongs to this very group."

The remainder of the editorial continues in the same tone, one of bitter attack. There is every reason to believe, of course, that the editorial reflects the views of the Democratic nominee, although not written or read by him, and was prepared by a writer who took no liberties in presenting the

opinions of the owner and the publisher. It is fairly safe to assume, therefore, that this in a large degree will be the line of Gov. Cox's speech of acceptance, which he has come to Dayton to prepare within the next few days.

Gov. Cox rested most of the day, after a busy week, in which he dealt largely with the creation of an organization to conduct his race for the Presidency. He had a few visitors, chief of whom were Senator Beckham (Ky.), who asked him to visit Kentucky for several speeches, and Edward M. Hurley, until recently chairman of the Shipping Board, with whom he discussed shipping and business affairs. Accompanying Mr. Hurley was E. D. Hurst, a banker, of Chicago.

### CHICAGO'S MAYOR IS SUED FOR TAXES

SPECIAL TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. CHICAGO, July 24.—Mayor Thompson today was sued by the State's Attorney's office for \$246.05 delinquent personal property taxes. The declaration in the suit alleges that Mayor Thompson paid no personal property taxes in 1915 or 1916 for his office in the First National Bank Building.

The Mayor in his Chicago campaigns has made taxes and the failure to pay taxes a leading issue, ranking next in importance of his traction plea. The disclosures which the suit is apt to bring forth when it goes to trial, August 3, will be watched by the Republicans because of the Mayor's political attitude on the failure to pay taxes.

Once the Mayor brought the subject of taxes into State politics. That instance was two years ago, when he personally appeared before the General Assembly and recommended the passage of a law making failure to pay taxes a penitentiary offense.

The declaration in the suit alleges that for 1915 Mayor Thompson filed his own schedule of valuations on the personal property in his office, but did not pay the taxes that were prorated on the basis of his valuations. The unpaid tax bill for that year is \$92.66. In 1916 the Mayor filed no schedule whatever for the personal property in his office, and the assessors estimated the value, adding on a 50 per cent penalty. It is alleged. The 1916 extension was for \$152.50, which the State's Attorney alleges the Mayor has also failed to pay. These were the first two years Mr. Thompson was Mayor.

## DRYS SAY LUNN CAN BEAT WADSWORTH

Anti-Saloonists to Back Up State Democrat in Primaries for Senator.

George R. Lunn, Mayor of Schenectady, former Socialist and once Representative in Congress, will enter the Democratic primaries in September in quest of the nomination for the United States Senate. He announced this intention yesterday, although it had been accepted as a foregone conclusion for some time past.

Last December William H. Anderson, State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, suggested that Mayor Lunn would be a good man for Tammany to select in defeating Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., Mr. Anderson's particular enemy. The Anti-Saloon League would gladly rally to the support of Lunn, who is an ex-clergyman, as Mr. Anderson remarked, and so would have no small strength with some lukewarm Republicans.

Tammany delegates to the National Convention, however, were set solidly against Lunn on his past performances, as well as his anti-unit rule and dry predilections. As for any of these issues, they were avoided strictly by Mayor Lunn in his formal statement announcing his candidacy. He adhered carefully to national matters.

He would support the national Democratic ticket and platform, he said, and he would specialize in reducing taxation as imposed at present. Likewise, the statement went on, he would "war to the death on profiteers." His campaign would center in Brooklyn and Manhattan, he added.

In opening his announcement Mayor Lunn hinted that he had a following which practically had forced him into being a candidate at the primaries. "Whatever hesitations I may have had," he remarked, "have been removed by the arguments and insistence of prominent Democrats, both men and women, not only up-State but in Manhattan and Brooklyn."

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